

Tenterden March 28

Kent

60

My dear Sir

I and my friends here
look forward with so much plea-
sure to the prospect of seeing you
this summer — perhaps in May.
I have an invitation to Leeds
in Yorkshire where you are known
and where the great cause of the
world is warmly advocated. I call
abolition the world cause, for God's
earth can never be free with the
freedom spiritual mental and
moral Christ came to bring while
a slave exists upon its soil

The friend whom I hope to visit
was here when Mr Putnam's letter
came, and she proposed that per-
haps, should you visit Tenterden

Before Leeds I should accompany
you there. I need not say if
it should not inconvenience you,
what pleasure this would give me,
for I feel though personally un-
known to you, that as you said to
Mr Putnam, though we never met
we are old friends. I have not
been to Leeds, nor am I personally
acquainted with the good men
there who advocate the slaves'
freedom, but they frequently send
me their tracts, and we sometimes
correspond. It will delight me
to see and converse with them.

I trust your visit to England
and other parts of Europe will receive
more sympathy with the cause your
life is spent in promoting. England
who introduced slavery is culpably
indifferent. The present generation
seem to think they did enough in

emancipating the West Indian
negroes, and rest complacently on
that only just deed. Is not the
present tyranny exercised in some
parts of Europe by highly educated, and
that by American snobs - proof that
now the great struggle is commenced
which must at length terminate in
the overthrow of slavery, "for liberty
can never be extinguished. I, an
old woman in my 80th year can not
hope to see this, but it is not only the
hope, but the faith that adds another
to the many blessings which make
my happiness

We have a little just tyranny in
England, as you know. I don't mean
we have but one. The Church rate, which
compels dissenters to help keep the
State church in repair, and among the
items is provided the purchase of the
incumbent's surplice, and even the wash
ing that grotesque garment. I have
never yet paid this rate since I

became a dissenter, nor do I in-
tend to do so. I declared that at my
other places of residence and was no
further troubled. Here many others ob-
ject, protest and pay. Now some say
they will not pay till Miss J. Ashby has done
so. Is it not brave for men to place themselves
behind a little old woman in the contest?
So I have had notice that I am to be
summoned before a bench of "the great the
paid," and then my goods are to be dis-
trained, as a warning to the other disreputable
people of Denderden. One who calls his
Garrison friend is not likely to value
his chairs, tables &c before a free con-
science.

I felt ashamed of our
public press that it did not generally
take up the cause of Miss Remond. For
many ignored it. As for the Times -
the "thunderer" as it is called I do be-
lieve it is afraid of frightening its read-
ers if it thunders too loud against
such sinners as slave holders or slavery
advocates. I am thankful to say it is an
organ to exponent of English feeling, but
adopts it when forced. I remain dear

Sir Yours truly
James Ashby